

What is claimed is:

1. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:  
a lower end, an upper peripheral edge, a sidewall, and an area of excess material comprising one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation in the sidewall for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall, the tubular sleeve initially having a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.
2. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.
3. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

4. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 wherein the preformed creases or folds further comprise at least, one or a plurality of pleats, one or a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or one or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

5. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 wherein the lower end is open.

6. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 wherein the lower end is closed.

7. The tubular sleeve of claim 6 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

8. The tubular sleeve of claim 1 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

9. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a base portion having a lower end, and a sidewall comprising an area of excess material comprising one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall; and

a skirt portion extending from the base portion and having an upper peripheral edge, and wherein the tubular sleeve initially has a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

10. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

11. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

12. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 wherein the one or more preformed creases or folds further comprise at least, one or a plurality of pleats, one or a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or one or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

13. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 wherein the lower end is open.

14. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 wherein the lower end is closed.

15. The tubular sleeve of claim 14 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

16. The tubular sleeve of claim 14 having a drain hole therein.

17. The tubular sleeve of claim 9 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

18. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a lower portion initially having a flattened condition, the lower portion having a sidewall, a lower end, and an area of excess material comprising one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation in the sidewall for allowing expansion of a portion of the lower portion; and

an upper portion extending from the lower portion and detachable therefrom via a detaching element, and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

19. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower portion comprises a base portion sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

20. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower portion further comprises a skirt portion which extends from the base portion.

21. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, cellophane, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

22. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the detaching element is selected from the group consisting of perforations, tear strips and zippers.

23. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the preformed creases or folds further comprise at least, one or a plurality of pleats, one or a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or one or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

24. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower end is open.

25. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower end is closed.

26. The tubular sleeve of claim 25 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

27. The tubular sleeve of claim 25 having a drain hole therein.

28. The tubular sleeve of claim 18 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

29. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a base portion having a lower end, and a sidewall, the sidewall comprising an area of excess material comprising one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal orientation for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall;

a skirt portion extending from the base portion; and

an upper portion extending from the skirt portion and detachable therefrom via a detaching element, the tubular sleeve initially having a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

30. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.



31. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, cellophane, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

32. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the upper portion detaching element is selected from the group consisting of perforations, tear strips and zippers.

33. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the preformed creases or folds further comprise at least, one or a plurality of pleats, one or a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or one or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

34. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the lower end is open.

35. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the lower end is closed.

36. The tubular sleeve of claim 35 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

37. The tubular sleeve of claim 35 having a drain hole therein.

38. The tubular sleeve of claim 29 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

39. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a lower end, an upper peripheral edge, a sidewall, and an area of excess material in the sidewall consisting of one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation in the sidewall for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall, and the tubular sleeve initially having a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

40. The tubular sleeve of claim 39 wherein the upper peripheral edge has a non-linear shape.

41. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

- a base portion having a lower end, a sidewall, and an area of excess material in the sidewall consisting of one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall; and

- a skirt portion extending from the base portion and having an upper peripheral edge, and wherein the tubular sleeve initially has a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

42. The tubular sleeve of claim 41 wherein the upper peripheral edge of the skirt portion has a non-linear shape.

43. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a lower portion initially having a flattened condition, a sidewall, and

a lower end, the sidewall having an area of excess material consisting of one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal or diagonal orientation in the sidewall for allowing expansion of a portion of the lower portion; and

an upper portion extending from the lower portion and detachable therefrom via a detaching element.

44. The tubular sleeve of claim 43 wherein the detaching element has a non-linear pattern.

45. A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a base portion having a lower end, a sidewall, the sidewall having an area of excess material consisting of one or more preformed creases or folds positioned in a horizontal orientation for allowing expansion of a portion of the sidewall;

a skirt portion extending from the base portion; and

an upper portion extending from the skirt portion; and detachable therefrom via a detaching element, and the tubular sleeve initially having a flattened condition, and the tubular sleeve absent a circular bottom in the flattened condition.

46. The tubular sleeve of claim 45 wherein the detaching element has a non-linear pattern.